

### **REMARKS**

Claims 41-55 are pending. The Examiner indicated that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

GROUP I: Claims 45-47, 53-55 drawn to a bearing; and

GROUP II: Claims 41-44, 48-52 drawn to a process of making a bearing.

The Examiner has required Applicants to elect a single group for prosecution on the merits and Examiner has also further required a further species restriction if the product invention of GROUP I is elected.

By this Response, Applicants respectfully elect, without traverse, the invention of GROUP II relating to Claims 41-44 and 48-52, cancel Claims 45-47 and 53-55, and add Claims 56-61 directed to the process of GROUP II. As the product invention claims of GROUP I have been canceled, Applicants respectfully submit that no further species election is required.

Applicants note that Claims 44-47 and 52-55, as previously presented, inadvertently recited product claims depending directly or indirectly from independent method claims 41 and 48, respectively. Applicants have amended Claims 44 and 52 to properly recite a method consistent with GROUP II grouping of claims required by the Examiner. Applicants have also cancelled the inadvertent product claims, Claims 45-47 and 53-55, to comply with the restriction requirement and present these claims as newly added dependent method claims 56-58 and 59-61, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that these newly added claims properly belong with the elected GROUP II claims from which they depend.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, examination of the current application on the merits are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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